

# CAN a Woman Engage in the Strenuous Commercial Life of To-Day and Retain Her Feminine Bearing and Instincts? New Lines of Thought That Change the Countenance.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Can a woman engage in the strenuous commercial life of to-day and retain her womanly bearing and instincts, and show no change in physiognomy and expression from the universal type of feminine faces?

St. Louis women who every day touch elbows with men of business say she can. Ideals play an important part in the business career of a woman, and through the vantage of shrewdness and poise acquired by association with the reverse side of affairs, still shines the woman if she has been successful.

The transformation of spheres that she goes through, however, leaves behind its traces, and, although the ideal may shine with the same true lustre, and her ultimate desires may be not far removed from the housewife's, the stamp of differentiation has been set and new tell-tale lines drawn.

But women of executive ability, of rare native and sharpened cleverness, who every day play at man's financial game and win, for some curious reason go contrary to man and resent being told that they look the part.

She, despite financial conquests and perverted pursuits, is still a woman. Her instincts have been vindicated. To attempt to suppress upon one of these goddesses of intellect and higher culture that she shows a radical difference in physiognomy from the general type of her sex, is a mistaken attempt at flattery and sure to fail.

Grace and nature, to her, still remain supreme. Men strive for picturesque individuality. He succumbs to the weakness to look as well as play the part. The actor, the lawyer, the doctor, the broker, are easily distinguishable. The cut of the beard, the comb of the hair, the effect of the clothes are identified with their professions.

But woman, with her unfathomable ways, holds in aversion all of this, and when she has reached a complacency in equality with masculine minds, she attempts to hide it by a height of femininity in dress and taste. Whether she has solved the puzzle of the commercial world, reached a mark in art, made a name in a profession or distinguished herself along uncommon lines, she considers her achievement lost, in a great measure, if success has been bought at the cost of beauty or grace.

To attract, to please—these are the elemental traits of all womanhood. Along these lines, since prohibitive time, woman have specialized.

"The hand that rocks the cradle and rules the world" would never have been supreme had it held the pen or turned the ledger sheet.

A St. Louis woman, mentioned among the ten representative business women of the world, said last week that her ideal was the model housewife. She has retained that ideal through the years spent in mounting to success in the financial world.

Philosopher, idealist, writer, manager of rare executive ability, but, above all, a woman, Miss Helena Mitchell, manager of the New Bookworm, a railroad corporation's magazine, stands as the most striking example of St. Louis women in financial pursuits. Holding the unique honor of filling a position heretofore barred against women, Miss Mitchell has not only triumphed through the devotion to woman's ideal, but she has embodied womanly qualities and manly traits in her work and retained all of the former.

Sited in her office in the Missouri Pacific building, Seventh and Market streets, conferring with the officials of the Immigration Bureau, Miss Mitchell is the cool, calculating business woman bearing large responsibilities with the same fortitude as her male co-workers. In her apartments at the Franklin Hotel, Westminster place



FAY TEMPLETON, ACTRESS.



MRS. J.E. ALLEN, SOCIETY WOMAN.



MRS. FLORENCE M. LAFLIN, BUSINESS WOMAN.

and Sarah street, the office has been left behind. A long skirt has been done for the tailor-made one for the street and office, the wrinkles of ease has given way for the smile of the hostess. She is again woman in her own element, glad that she is woman and playing, not fighting, her ideal.

But the office had not been entirely stamped out. Her speech smacks of business briskness and point. She told her age with a startling straightforwardness that a housewife would have spoken of a street number. She talked of her work and herself, as though she was giving business in her office. She told of her ambition, her struggles, her faults and good traits without apparently knowing that she was divulging what other women of more confined lives would have thought impossible.

But there came a break. She laughingly admitted that she was still a woman and happy of it. She might have added that she was an extraordinary woman, who thought mainly thoughts in a womanly way. The talk had drifted to success and the cause, and then came the magic word, "ideal." It threw down the business barrier and left her the woman.

"I am an idealist," she admitted in her terse, epigrammatic way, "and it has been my salvation, my keynote of success. To attain success in the business world a woman must have an ideal. When I speak of success I mean real success. A woman's success in the commercial world is not a success if she gets it by the methods of either."

"A man must be looked squarely in the eye. Chuckling under the chin means something worse than business ruminations. Men are good and helpful when you understand them and they understand you. Above all things first, honesty to yourself. Then you will succeed."

"But a woman must keep her ideal before her and she must try to be as much like her mother and aunts as possible. I have always kept them before me."

"One thing is certain. A woman must take the knocks with the men and batter her head up against the stone wall of commercialism or quit. The business world loves stamming and grit, but it is no place for the quitter. Take your knocks, sharpen your ability and show them. You acknowledge your failure when you ask for quarter."

"St. Louis business men have a quicker and keener appreciation of a good business woman than the men of any other city. They will not take it all on bedstead, but they are easily convinced when shown. They are helpful and earnest when they know you right and don't you know that

## POINTED BUSINESS EPIGRAMS.

BY MISS HELENA MITCHELL.

No woman can make a success down town unless she cries when she goes home.

A woman must take the knocks with the men and batter her head up against the stone wall of commercialism or quit.

A woman's success in the commercial world is not a success if she gets it by the methods of either.

A man must be looked straight in the eye.

Not was a woman becomes masculine will her perfection be reached, but when she becomes manly.

A masculine woman is a creature which should not be tolerated. But a manly woman could never cluck like a hen.

St. Louis men have a quicker and keener appreciation of good business women than the men of any other city.

There is nothing that so cheers a business man as to receive the confidence of business men.

BY MRS. FLORENCE M. LAFLIN.

The housewife is the cleverest business woman of all.

A woman will not succeed in the office if she could not succeed at home.

A woman should spend one day of the week in the office with her husband and the husband should attempt one-tenth of the duties of the housewife one day out of the week.

Common sense must be carried on in marriage as well as in any business.

A woman may attain success in the business world and retain all of that which makes her woman.

There is no such royal road to success for a woman in business as right here in St. Louis.

How often you hear one man stop another on the street, shake his hand and say, "How did you come out in that last

year?" and you see him to see me and we'll talk that over. If a woman would get one of these greetings a month she would feel as though nothing spelled failure.

"But woman has not evaded the field for enough to receive all honors at once. She is misunderstood and is the cause of that misunderstanding. She has a long way yet to climb, but not when she becomes masculine will her perfection be reached, but when she becomes manly."

"A masculine woman is a creature which should not be tolerated. But a manly woman could never cluck like a hen."

That even business success had its tributes was admitted by Miss Mitchell for the mirror of the commercial world even then reflected in her face.

"Oh, yes," she said smiling, "there is no question but what the face will show new lines and a character reader can tell what the pursuits have been. The care of the household brings different wrinkles than the rush of the business world. The latter I might say show greed."

"The woman who is playing the game of the dollar soon grows tense in her actions and expressions. It is unmistakable. She talks with her hands before her, almost ready to tighten into a grasp. She may retain all of her other womanly instincts and actions, but the office has placed one immutable brand upon her."

"I have a friend who very truly says, 'You are not what you think you are, but what you think.' So I would say that ideals more than occupation change the physiognomy, but even different pursuits will alter ideals, so, after all, it gets down to one basis."

MISS HELENA MITCHELL.

Manager of a Railroad Corporation's magazine, who says that a woman must maintain an ideal in business life.

Miss Mitchell has summed it all up in one word, "ideal," and it must be the solution, for her success has been the most trying one. Beginning last February as a staff writer she has risen to manager absolute. She employs and discharges, signs all checks, "O. K." all bills, attends to all the circulation and advertising keeps up agencies in all the southwest territory, and, besides, has found time to put away a snug little fortune in Joplin mines.

There is only one way to make money mining," she observed, "and that is to dig the ore out of the ground. Speculation is not mining."

Mrs. Florence M. Laflin, manager of the women's department of the Missouri Trust Company, although having to display rare business tact, still maintains woman's ideal and sets above all the housewife. Coming in contact daily with hundreds of women in almost all strata of life, Mrs. Laflin has had not only financial problems to deal with, but has acted as adviser and her advice has been embodied in that one word "ideal."

"There is no such royal road to success for a woman as right here in St. Louis," said Mrs. Laflin, seated at her desk, "and there need be no reason for failure if she will but keep her eyes to the front and retain all that is womanly while doing manly duties."

Woman may go into a business life from the fear that marriage might be a failure, but she will not succeed in business if she could not succeed at home. Divorces would be unknown if women employed, well, more business tact.

"I would suggest that the housewife spend one day of the week in the office with her husband. Let her see what his duties, trials and worries are. When he comes home at night she will better understand why he may be cross and she will know how to smooth his wrinkled feelings."

On the other hand the husband should

see the thousand and one little worries that the housewife contends with daily. Let him spend a day at home and follow her in her duties. Let him don an apron and attempt just one-tenth of the things that she performs as a part of the daily routine. He would then have a better idea of what makes his wife out of sorts some nights when he returns from the office.

"Common sense must be carried on in the house as well as the office and in every marriage union as well as in any business."

"A woman may attain height and success in the business world and still retain all of the charms of womanhood. Of course, it broadens and elevates the mind, but it does not follow that she will have to grow masculine in carrying the extra burden."

But again reverting to one of the original queries regarding the change in physiognomy and expression.

To answer it satisfactorily one must take a typical face, and comparing it with the differentiated and marked physiognomy of the doctor, lawyer, teacher, nurse, actress and business woman, and by a process of addition, now of subtraction, now of elimination, point out feature by feature wherein change has taken place.

The society woman's face offers the most typical qualities of feminine feature and expression. She is the great archetype of all women, having, as she does, the largest amount of average characteristics and common qualities peculiar to her sex. The society woman presents all the primitive woman's essential traits in their highest state of development and perfection.

To please, to charm, common as a heritage, is, as an art, most difficult and rare of accomplishment. It is given to all women, perhaps, the ability to charm somebody, but it is given to the society woman to charm at will anybody and everybody.

That is her highest function to life—charm; nor is it any unworthy function. The real society woman—that is, the genius of a drawing-room—is a creature whose charms nobody can withstand, when she so pleases to exercise them, whether the exercise be prompted by the spontaneity of a kind heart, self-interest, vanity or diplomacy. No man, woman or child can be proof against her art and powers of attraction, also she is not the belle or the grande dame she sets up to be.

She may or may not be handsome, but once under her spell you will always find her beautiful. Her face is full of softness and grace, her eyes are ever sparkling, her smile is a beautiful smile, but from the top of the forehead to the delicately molded chin it shows a decided desire to please. No one would ever mistake the possession of such countenance for either a physician or a teacher or a lawyer. It is a face in which all the essentials necessary to presidency in any one of these professions are conspicuously absent.

In the business woman we find an ensemble of physiognomic characteristics, part of which are found in the lawyer's and part in the teacher's face, with hardly any peculiarity of the physician's. Mrs. Walker is the owner and absolute controller of a fortune estimated at \$50,000,000.

In the face of the actress we have a highly specialized set of features and expressions. It means at once everything and nothing. It is a fickle face, and betokens not perhaps a fickle heart as much as a fickle psychology. There is no mistaking Miss Templeton's for other than an actress's face.

## DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE—What the Bishops Say; What the Law Says.

Social Question of the Hour in the Light of Religion and Human Law.



THE RT. REV. GEO. F. NELSON, BISHOP OF GEORGIA.

JUSTICE J. A. BLANCHARD.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Like Isaque's ghost, the question of divorce will not down. It is one which affords all sects, all classes and all races in this great cosmopolitan Republic of ours. Churches hold conferences, canonical laws are made, passed and amended, and the heads and religious fervency of high ecclesiastical engage in polemical pose and come on the mighty question of the remarriage of the divorced; legislatures and able orators arise and earnestly debate the ways and means of controlling the hydra-headed monster, the divorce evil, which is devastating homes, disrupting families and going to create a plurality of parents—all this has gone on year after year, and to-day we are no nearer a solution than we were ten years ago.

In the recent Conference of the Protestant Episcopal Church, held in Boston, the Committee on Marriage and Divorce hotly suggested the amendment of the canonical

law permitting the remarriage of the innocent party to the divorce. The same question was brought up before the Conference three years ago and laid over until this last Conference in Boston. After the House of Deputies had laid the amendment on the table for future consideration the House of Bishops voted for the new canon.

The Catholic Church says: "No divorce." The Episcopal Church bans the remarriage of the guilty and throws restrictions around that of the innocent party to a divorce. The churches of other denominations are more liberal. The State of New York says: "Divorce for one cause only." The other States descend the scale of laxity until in some a man or woman

may obtain a divorce for "mental incompetency," which is certainly a liberal cause, while it is a queer one.

"THE TEMPEST WHICH HAS RISEN AGAINST THE SACREDNESS OF MARRIAGE."

BY RIGHT REVEREND GEORGE F. NELSON, Bishop of Georgia.

Woman will ever have the larger share in the burden bearing of the world and in the responsibility for the welfare of the race, but here also is the promise.

The present condition of human society affords the largest opportunity for the exercise of reverence for human nature and your insistence for its preservation. Two hundred thousand divorces in a

single year are a cause for alarm, in which you feel not only a sympathy but a vital share. Two hundred thousand divorces mean that there is work for women to do for women of reverence and heart and sympathy.

I am disposed to place more hope in the character and determination of American women than in the legislation of American men. Every self-respecting woman must feel that she has a place and share in the right settlement of this problem, which is burning out the piety and peace and hope of American life.

We need not only your frown, but your determined and united opposition to marriages for reforming drunkards, marriages for position, wealth or a home (so called), marriages of convenience, and all other marriages but such as God's Word doth allow.

In the retired influence of the Christian home, in your open protests against the deformation of womanhood, in a marked difference in your admissions to social connections, in the training of sons, in your influence over friends, both men and women, in your own unwavering resource, you possess the means and instruments to better the present state of affairs and to stem what seems to be a tumultuous tempest which has arisen against the sacredness of marriage.

"THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ALONE IS CONSISTENT."

BY JAMES BLANCHARD, Justice of the Supreme Court, New York City.

During my twenty-five years of general practice I only acted as attorney in two divorce cases, and then because I considered it was my duty to help two women whom I knew to be oppressed to gain their freedom.

At present there is a divorce case before me where the woman has suffered all kinds of indignities at the hands of the being who in the eyes of the law is her husband. She has been beaten, kicked, starved, turned out of doors. Do you not think that woman is entitled to a divorce? I do.

It has been reported that I have tried fifty-six divorce cases since the opening of the fall term. There is one fact in connection with this which in my opinion is a matter for deep thought. Of those fifty-six cases only one was brought in which the principals were Catholics. The Catholic Church is consistent in the stand it takes, and the members of that church apply for divorce less frequently than those of any other denomination.

There would be fewer divorces if women would only conform with the Scriptural mandate—obey! A woman should look up to her husband as the head of the house, the breadwinner, the master, and obey him. I will concede that there are many cases in which the man has forfeited any respect from the woman, where the wife is the stronger, the better and in many cases the breadwinner. When this happens the woman is not happy; then she is better separated. But when the man follows his part of the contract and the woman can respect and obey him, is she not happier? Is not that the more natural marriage state?

We hear considerable about women and their rights to divorce, but let me tell you there are many men in this city who are

## VIOLA ALLEN AS HERMIONE IN A SCENE FROM SHAKESPEARE'S "A WINTER'S TALE."



Viola Allen will come to the Olympic Theater November 12, in a revival of "A Winter's Tale." She is to play two parts, Hermione and Perdita.

More entitled to a divorce than you dream of. A woman need not beat a man, nor be guilty of the statutory offense, but she can drive him almost mad by nagging at him.

It is nonsense, this talk of obtaining a uniform divorce law by applying to the National Government. That can only be done by the Legislatures of the different States. If the Protestant Episcopal Church

does as is reported to be the intention of the Conference—appoint committees from every State to consider a uniform law and then present their petitions to the Legislatures of their respective States—we may thus in this way reach some compromise, but I doubt if that will be accomplished in my day.

No church can pass a canonical law which will be more powerful than the

statute law. The Catholic Church does not allow divorce. The law upon presentation of sufficient testimony can and does divorce Roman Catholics, and after such a judgment is rendered, should they continue to live together, they would be guilty in the eyes of the law and amenable to punishment. The law of the United States is more powerful than that of any church of whatever denomination.